

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH

JOIN US AT HOMECOMING!



Alumni and current students, please join our faculty members for our second annual Homecoming event at Titan Stadium! You can find us at the Society of Political Science Students Tent for the pregame celebration at **Tent City** from noon-1:30 on Saturday October 7th. We had a fantastic time connecting with alumni last year.

Homecoming festivities include a full line-up of activities beginning at 9 a.m. with an Open House at Reeve Memorial Union, an 11 a.m., followed by the Tour de Titan Bike Ride, Tent City, the football game versus UW-Stevens Point and a Fifth Quarter celebration. You can find us at Tent City. Stop by our table and share a little PSL (political science love), play some games and enjoy the food and drinks with your political science friends.

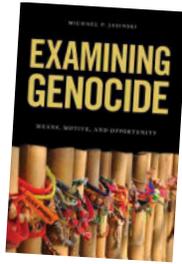
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JASINSKI SHARES RESEARCH

Dr. Michael Jasinski will discuss his recently published book, “Examining Genocide: Means, Motive, and Opportunity,” at the Dean’s Symposium, Wednesday, September 27 in Reeve 306 at 12:00pm. The discussion revolves around one of the main themes of the book and of Dr. Jasinski’s research, namely theory of political leadership. One of the weaker aspects of political science is the lack of a robust theory with not only an explanatory but also predictive power concerning individual political leaders’ actions in certain contexts. This book represents a step in developing such a theory, with genocide being the context. Considering we are currently living in a political environment of a prolonged economic and political crisis, with talk of “walls” and “travel bans,” hopefully this research also casts a light on the motives and preferences of the world’s current leaders.”



NEW LUNCHTIME SERIES

We’re always looking for ways to ensure our students have the best possible support from our faculty, both in the classroom and out. This year, we’re starting a new lunchtime tradition: the Political Science Life (PSL) series. (It’s better than a pumpkin spice latte, we assure you. And it won’t cost you a dime!) Join us as we get together to talk about issues relevant to majors and prospective majors alike. Bring a friend or two!

This semester’s workshops are as follows:

September 20th ~ “No Grandma, I’m Not Running for President:” or *What Political Science Majors Do and Why It Matters*

October 18th ~ *Writing it Right: Some Timely Writing Reminders for Social Scientists*

November 15th ~ *Marketing Your Major*

All workshops are 12:00-1:30pm in Sage 4602

Contact: Dr. Tracy Slagter (slagtert@uwosh.edu) or Angelee Hammond (hammond@uwosh.edu) for more information.

GROUP ADVISING

The Political Science Department will offer group advising sessions for students as an alternative to meeting with your regular faculty adviser this semester. Students who find it difficult to meet with their regular adviser or want to try a different approach to advising are welcome to stop by a group advising session to hear about course offerings, check in on their progress in their major, remove a hold, or chat with our UARC adviser about general education requirements. There will also be cookies.

Two Sessions:

September 28th in Sage 3234 at 4:30-5:30pm
Intended for Juniors/Seniors, all are welcome!

October 11th in Sage 3234 at 3:00-4:00pm
Intended for Freshmen/Sophomores, all are welcome!

Contact Dr. James Krueger (kruegerj@uwosh.edu for more information.

STUDENT SUCCESS GATEWAY

Students may have noticed that they had the opportunity to directly schedule a meeting with their adviser as part of their “Welcome to Campus” message this semester. That innovation is a part of our new advising software: Student Success Gateway (SSG). In addition to scheduling meetings, students and advisers will be able to track notes about advising meetings, evaluate their success with milestones within their majors and minors, and preview potential minors and/or second majors based on their coursework. The goal of SSG is to create an effective, easy-to-use, location for all of the information students need to track their progress toward their degree. For more: <https://advising.uwosh.edu>

KRUEGER WINS UNIVERSITY AWARD



Dr. James Krueger received the Edward M. Penson Faculty Award at the Fall 2017 Opening Day Convocation. The award recognizes faculty members who have made significant contributions to their colleges and the university. Krueger won this award for his work on a college committee that examined ways to reduce the average number of credits UWO students have completed at graduation (a UW system high of 139 in the last year) to 120, the number needed to earn a degree. The hope is that this work will lead to faster times to graduation and possibly lower costs for our students. He was nominated by COLS Dean John Koker (currently interim Provost and Vice Chancellor).

FACULTY AWARD WINNERS



Over the Spring 2017 semester, Academic Department Associate Angelee Hammond gave all Political Science majors the ability to vote online and select the recipient of the department's annual teaching award.

This year two professors tied in the voting; **Dr. Tracy Slagter** and **Dr. Jerry Thomas**. They were both presented certificates at the awards dinner hosted by the Political Science Honor Society.

THOMAS PUBLISHES

Dr. Jerry Thomas published a number of projects examining the intersections of law, politics, and queer theory, and particularly the concept of sexual citizenship. Some of his projects published this year were submitted to journals and editors three years ago. His recent publications include:

- “Constructing Queer Theory in Political Science and Public Law: Sexual Citizenship, Outspeech, and Queer Narrative” forthcoming in *New Political Science* 39: 4 (2017)
- “Queer Sensibilities and Other Fagchild Tools” in *LGBTQ Politics: A Critical Reader* (2017) edited by Marla Brettschneider, Susan Burgess, and Christine Keating (New York University Press)
- “Queer Sensibilities: Notes on Method” in *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 5:1 (2017)
- “Vulnerable White Men and Sexual Citizenship: Charles Ray Sculptures” in *Masculinities* 7(Feb. 2017)
- “Queer Theory’s Utility: Review of Christopher Schmidt’s *Poetics of Waste*” in *Writing from Below* 3:1 (2016)

Dr. Thomas said, “Publishing is one thing. Receptivity is another. I hope students and scholars find my work helpful.” He is juggling several other projects related to sexual citizenship: a queer autoethnography examining gender and sexuality politics in the Trump era, a book chapter about legal and political issues surrounding a James Franco film, an article on queer ecology, and a project related to sexual expression and the First Amendment.

SIEMERS SQUARED



Team teaching is rare at UW Oshkosh, but it is something we should do more of, as it offers students more expertise and multiple teaching styles in the classroom. This semester **Dr. David Siemers** is engaging in a team teaching experiment with **Dr. Sarinda Taengnoi Siemers** from the Economics Department. Together they are teaching an Honors class on Education. “So far it has been great fun,” says Political Science’s Siemers. “Planning out the course and seeing how Sarinda teaches firsthand is really inspiring to me.” The two professors are married in “real life.” Talking about how to teach and what to do in classes is something that they do on a daily basis. Teaching together is a natural extension of their mutual interest in quality instruction. The Economist Siemers notes that “we have a great semester planned out, and I think our strengths complement each other really well.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Vanessa Paige VandeHey (B.A., 2017), Senior Staff Assistant, Office of Speaker Paul D. Ryan, Washington, D.C.

Vanessa has been working in the Office of Speaker of the House Paul Ryan for about a year, first as an intern during the Fall 2016 semester. Her work as an intern led to a job offer, and forced Vanessa to figure out creative ways to finish her degree at Oshkosh while also accepting a job that put her in the middle of the action in exciting political times.

More than anything, Vanessa understands the power of internships.

"Internships are very beneficial to a career on the Hill," she writes. "As an intern you have the opportunity to build relationships with staff and members of Congress, as well as get a taste for the expectations of working on the Hill. From my experiences, you can never go wrong with a positive attitude."

Maintaining solid work relationships is critical in a job like Vanessa's. "My daily duties include assisting office Senior Staff, creating daily schedules for the Staff Assistants and Interns, and helping with the operations side of outside groups visiting the office (located inside the Capitol building). I enjoy all aspects of my job, which I think is a symptom of working with and for really great people," she says.

Political Science was an obvious choice for Vanessa, and she uses the skills she earned here every day. She echoes something we hear from employers a lot: critical thinking and research are not just classroom projects, but essential job skills. "First and foremost, I would say that the skill of being able to think critically has been the most significant as many of my daily duties involve quick decision-making," Vanessa writes. "The ability to know how to conduct research has also proven itself to be invaluable, which was a skill emphasized during my time in the Political Science department at UW-Oshkosh."

To read Vanessa’s full interview and find profiles of other alums, visit our [departmental website](#) or [UWO Political Science Facebook](#).